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Identical letters dated 20 June 2011 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Upon instruction from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter (see annex) that represents the position of the Syrian Arab Republic on the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force for the period from 1 January to 30 June 2011 (S/2011/359).

I would highly appreciate if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 20 June 2011 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to convey to you the position of the Syrian Arab Republic concerning the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) for the period from 1 January to 30 June 2011.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic would like to express its appreciation for the efforts by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and of UNDOF officials in the occupied Syrian Golan to maintain security and peace in the Force's area of operations, in accordance with its mandate. Since the Force was established in 1974, Syria has consistently supported and facilitated its work and respected its mandate. It has also maintained close ties with officials of UNDOF, the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. In his previous reports, the Secretary-General has always expressed his appreciation for Syria's cooperation, its assiduous efforts to ensure the safety of UNDOF troops and its respect for the Force's mandate.

Given that the mandate is based on the purposes and principles of the Charter, and governed by the Agreement on Disengagement between Israeli and Syrian Forces, the Syrian Arab Republic is therefore surprised that the Secretary-General's report, which relates to UNDOF, should make reference to Syrian internal affairs. Paragraph 2 of the report indicates that anti-Government demonstrations in the Syrian Arab Republic spread to several villages in the area of limitation. This attempt to link events currently taking place in Syria with the UNDOF report is inappropriate and unacceptable. It constitutes flagrant interference by the Secretariat in the internal affairs of one of the Organization's founding States, and an attempt to misrepresent the Israeli occupation of the Syrian Golan. It is also unacceptable to simplify the matter to such a degree, as Syria is capable of resorting to alternatives, should it wish to do so.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic also rejects the distortions contained in the report and the incorrect assertion that the Syrian security forces and authorities supervised the gatherings that took place in the area of separation. It is well known that the gatherings were a spontaneous popular response to commemorate the painful memories of the 1948 Nakbah and the 1967 Naksah. Force officials are aware of the efforts that the relevant Syrian authorities made to prevent the situation from escalating.

The true causes of those popular gatherings are Israel's continued disregard of international resolutions, its continued usurpation of Arabs' lands and rights, and its evasion of the requirements of a just and comprehensive peace, as well as the inability of the United Nations to fulfil its responsibility under the Charter and relevant resolutions.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic condemns those blatant acts of aggression and calls on the international community to take immediate measures to hold Israel accountable for those crimes. We believe that, in the report, the

Secretariat should have focused on those important and relevant matters, instead of providing the pretext being sought by certain Security Council members, which were waiting for such language in order to justify the adoption of a resolution targeting Syria.

The Syrian Arab Republic recently informed the Secretariat that it would follow its previous practice and would agree to only a six-month extension of the mandate of UNDOF, that is to say, until 31 December 2011. Furthermore, we would like to emphasize that it is important not to introduce distortions aimed at diverting for other purposes the resolution whereby the Force's mandate is extended. The Presidential statement should also be adopted, as in previous years.

Syria has repeatedly called for just and comprehensive peace in Middle East to be reached on the basis of Security Council resolutions, in particular resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) and 497 (1981), the Arab Peace Initiative and the other relevant terms of reference.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative